



The Toni Times

FROM THE DESK OF
COUNCILMEMBER TONI ATKINS

SEPTEMBER 2007

NEWEST SENIOR AFFRODABLE HOUSING COMPLEX IN CITY HEIGHTS

On August 10, 2007, I was honored to cut the ribbon and participate in the official grand opening of City Heights Square, the newest housing complex for low-income seniors in City Heights. It will be managed by Senior Community Centers and includes a variety of supportive amenities and “green,” eco-friendly features to help save costs and protect the environment.

Located at 43rd Street and Polk Avenue in City Heights, City Heights Square provides not only housing, but also an array of supportive services such as nutrition, medical and mental health services.

The building is designed to be fifteen percent more energy efficient than California’s current standards. The environmentally friendly building features a high-efficiency heating and cooling system, the use of many recycled materials, energy-saving windows and light bulbs and roof-mounted solar panels, which help lower energy usage and costs, ensuring a more sustainable future for the building and its residents.

Seniors interested in renting at City Heights Square may obtain rental information by calling the building’s property manager Hyder & Company at (619) 281-0483.



*Councilmember Toni Atkins is joined by Paul Downey,
Executive Director of Senior Community Centers.*



*Councilmember Atkins along with
participants cut the ribbon for City Heights Square*

ORDINANCES PROPOSED TO COUNTER MINI-DORMS

Mini-dorms - single dwelling units occupied by multiple adults - have sprouted throughout the city. They have frustrated neighbors in single family areas and presented challenges to city policy makers attempting to preserve the character of San Diego's single family neighborhoods.

On July 9, 2007, the City Council unanimously approved a number of changes to the Land Development Code intended to reduce the ability of developers to convert existing single family residences into mini-dorms. These modifications include limits to the number of bedrooms, increases in required parking spaces and reduction of hardscape allowed in single family zones.

While it is anticipated that these new restrictions will reduce the number of new mini dorms, more protections will likely be needed. To that end, the City Council asked that a Rooming House Ordinance and a Residential High Occupancy Permit Ordinance be prepared and brought before Council. The Rooming House Ordinance would restrict single dwelling units with 3 or more bedrooms and 3 or more leases from single dwelling unit zones.

While, by law, existing mini-dorms would be allowed to stay under a grandfather clause, the proposed ordinance would eliminate them after a seven year phase-out period.

The Residential High Occupancy Permit option would require an annual permit and fees for any single dwelling unit with 6 or more adult occupants.

The high occupancy permit would require additional parking per occupant and would be revocable as an enforcement remedy.

Both proposed ordinances are scheduled to be considered at the Planning Commission on September 6, 2007. The final decision will be with the City Council for applicability outside of the coastal zone, and will require Coastal Commission certification in addition to Council approval to apply in the coastal zone.

Further information about these proposed ordinances is available online at <http://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/industry/minidorm.shtml>. If you have an opinion and would like to weigh in before these items come to the City Council, please contact my office.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING: JOINT-USE FIELD FOR BIRNEY ELEMENTARY AND ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY

Plans are moving forward to construct two turfed joint-use fields on the campus of Roosevelt Middle School and Birney Elementary School. The City's Engineering and Capital Projects managers are hosting public meetings to gather input regarding the construction of both projects. If you are interested in finding out more about these projects and would like to provide your input through the process, please plan on attending the following meetings:

Roosevelt Middle School Public Meeting

Date and Time: September 11, 2007 at 6:00pm

Location: Roosevelt Middle School Auditorium
3366 Park Blvd

Project Manager: Barry Kelleher (619) 525-8286

Birney Elementary School Public Meeting

Date and Time: September 10, 2007 at 6:00pm

Location: Birney Elementary School Auditorium
4345 Campus Avenue

Project Manager: Barry Kelleher (619) 525-8286

4739 PANORAMA DRIVE UPDATE

Many of you may have noticed the abandoned house at 4739 Panorama Drive and the missing sidewalk. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on the issue. My office has been working with the Neighborhood Code Compliance department to keep the site secure. Neighborhood Code Compliance has done a great job of keeping the property protected and free of squatters. In addition, I have submitted a formal request to have the sidewalk repaired as soon as possible. The Street Division department told me they are investigating the matter, and are committed to have the sidewalk replaced. Much of the delay in resolving the issue has been due to the absentee property owner. I appreciate the neighbors patience through the process. If you have further questions about this property, please contact my office at (619) 236-6633.

KENSINGTON SOCIAL AND ATHLETIC CLUB

In 1981, four Kensington neighbors qualified to run in the Boston Marathon. They needed a distinctive race shirt that showed their neighborhood bond. Their collective and creative thinking resulted in the name known as the Kensington Social and Athletic Club (KSAC) and its palm-adorned logo.

Since that time, the KSAC has made significant contributions to the community such as helping to launch the annual Kensington's Memorial Day event—Holiday at Home, which they have now sponsored for 26 years. This event gives neighbors the opportunity to come together every year to enjoy the wonderful parade, and bazaar and to celebrate their community. KSAC also sponsors the annual Kensington Holiday Lights contest and the Kensington Trash Pickers, a group of neighbors that regularly cleans up the local canyons.

If you're interested in learning more or getting involved with KSAC, please contact my office at (619) 236-6633 .

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEEDS YOUR HELP: CAR PROWL IN TALMADGE



Recently, residents of Talmadge have noticed an increase in car prowls and a few attempted break-ins. Community Relations Officer Patrick Norris attended July's Talmadge Community Council meeting to discuss the recent increase. Many neighbors have spotted a white van cruising around the neighborhood with hooded males inside, which the majority of residents think are connected to the car prowls. Talmadge residents are taking a pro-active role in keeping their neighborhood safe. If you spot a white van that seems like it is prowling the neighborhood, try to get the license plate and call our office at (619) 236-6633 or Officer Pat Norris at (619) 516-3009.

I am very proud of the Talmadge residents for their role in keeping Talmadge safe and I'd like to thank Officer Norris for his efforts thus far. Together we can protect keep Talmadge secure and protected.

CITY FEST 2007

I wanted to thank the Hillcrest Business Improvement Association for hosting yet another successful CityFest on August 12, 2007. Over 100,000 people were in attendance for the annual event that stretched along 5th Avenue from Upas Street north to University Avenue. Visitors were treated to over 250 vendor booths, entertainment on three stages, extensive food and drink vendors and businesses along 5th Avenue that opened their doors that Sunday. I had an information booth that provided information from various city departments such as fire and police, water conservation and traffic engineering along with promotional items from the Metropolitan Transit System (I sit on the transit board of directors) to encourage use of city buses and the San Diego Trolley. During my time at the booth, I was pleased to have an opportunity to chat with many residents throughout Hillcrest. This year marks the 23rd year of CityFest, a street fair that began in 1984 to celebrate the re-lighting of the restored Hillcrest community sign.

BALBOA PARK DOG PARKS ADD IMPROVEMENTS

I wanted to take a moment to thank the user groups of the three Balboa Park dog leash-free areas for their contributions to create a more attractive environment for park users. At Nate's Point on the west side of the park, the Nate's Point (www.npdog.org) user group under the leadership of David Lynn, has successfully raised approximately \$90,000 to add improvements to the area.

These amenities include a drinking fountain, picnic table and accessible sidewalk. A private donor contributed an additional \$40,000, which resulted in an attractive fence along the perimeter of the leash free area to prevent dogs from going into the adjacent steep-slope canyon.

The Canine Council of Morley Field (www.caninecouncilofmorleyfield.com) have completed their fundraising and will begin work on the construction of a dog-friendly water fountain. Last year, the Canine Council contributed funds towards the construction of a new fence, reseeding the turf, cleaning the area and repairing sprinkler heads. Additional trash cans and a relocated kiosk have also been added to the area. In addition, the Grape Street leash free group DOGS (Dog Owners of Grape Street) donated \$800 last year to reseed portions of the lawn at Grape Street Park.



I would like to give special thanks to Dan Daneri, Park and Recreation Department Manager, and his staff, Bill Overstreet. All of these improvements could not have been possible without their assistance.

TWILIGHT IN THE PARK CONCERTS

On August 15th, I was pleased to present a \$750 check to the Twilight in the Park Concert Series as well as a check for \$750 from the Balboa Park Morley Field Recreation Council. These funds will help defray the costs associated with the thirty-four-concert series that took place this summer. For the past 26 years, the Twilight in the Park Concert Committee have assembled a series of concerts that are offered free to the public at the beautiful Organ Pavilion located in Balboa Park. Over the years, hundreds of thousands of visitors have enjoyed concerts ranging from rock bands to classical orchestras and singing groups. Also, a special thanks to Developed Regional Parks and Recreation Cultural Arts staff, Becky Yzaguirre, for working with the 20-member Concert Committee to produce the popular annual event.



Councilmember Atkins (center) is joined by Councilmember Frye (far left) and members of the Twilight in the Park Concert Committee and Park and Recreation Staff.

NEW VISIONS FOR DOWNTOWN NORTH PARK

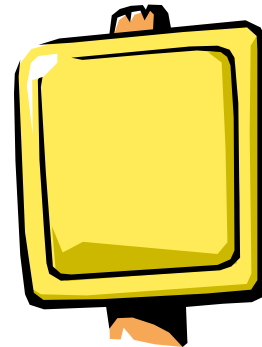
Over the past year, urban design students at San Diego's New School of Architecture and Design have focused their course work on downtown North Park, which encompasses University Avenue and North Park Way, from Utah to 32nd Streets. As a result, the students have created three-dimensional models and drawings of a park behind the theater on North Park Way, a plaza on 29th Street near the theater entrance; an outdoor theater and new buildings near the theater.

North Park Main Street, North Park's Business Improvement District, has invited the students to North Park to display their projects and receive feedback from residents and business owners. The event will take place on Wednesday, September 5th from 5:00 – 8:00pm at Studio 3060 located at 3060 University Avenue.

I look forward to participating in this event and viewing all of the exciting projects!

SPEED LIMIT CHANGE IN NORTH PARK

In the upcoming weeks, the city's Traffic Engineering department will repost the speed limit on University Avenue between Park Boulevard and Utah Street from 25 MPH to 30 MPH. The change in the speed limit will make the area radar enforceable; and thereby enabling the police officers to ticket vehicles that are speeding.



NEW NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTIFICATION MARKER



Councilmember Toni Atkins is joined by community members of Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association.

On July 14, 2007, I was pleased to join with members of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association as they unveiled the new Fairmount Park neighborhood identification marker located along Home Avenue west of the 805 freeway. The marker serves to enhance community identity and visibility. I was pleased to contribute Community Block Grant dollars toward this project. With a grant from the San Diego Foundation as well as hard work from the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association, the project was completed.

Thank you Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association. This project could not have been completed without all of your efforts!

HUD 108 PROJECT IN NORMAL HEIGHTS NEAR COMPLETION

Two years ago, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to allocate \$705,000 in HUD 108 funds to the Adams Avenue Business Association for improvements along Adams Avenue. March of this year, sidewalk improvements were completed on Adams Avenue from Hamilton to 30th Streets with small portions on 30th Street and on Adams Avenue near 32nd Street. In addition, street light globes were replaced and new reflectors were installed in all antique style street lights along Adams Avenue from Hamilton Street to Cherokee Avenue. Also, two street light poles were replaced on the 3300 block on Adams Avenue that were not replaced when the original street lights were installed.



The final portion of the project, which is set to be complete by November of this year, includes replacement of public trash cans and installation of new tree grates. Twenty-five public Receptacles will be replaced along Adams Avenue and will be maintained by the Adams Avenue Maintenance Assessment District. In addition, there will be 20 new tree grates installed on Adams from 32nd to 33rd Streets.

I would like to thank Jim Schneider, Executive Director of the Adams Avenue Business Association, for monitoring and working with the city to wrap-up the project.

30TH STREET UNDERGROUNDING UPDATE

The work on undergrounding the transmission line along 30th Street has been moving along quickly and is near completion! SDG &E expects to have the new line in and energized by November of this year. Once the new line is installed, SDG&E will begin to remove the old lines. This process should take about 60-days to complete.



TALMADGE UNDERGROUND UPDATE

In November of this year, the cable phase of the Block 3FF undergrounding project in Talmadge will begin. Technicians will place new utility lines in the conduits. The new lines will then be “energized” and brought into service. The work will not begin until November because cable designs are still being finalized. If you would like further information or have questions regarding this project, please contact Senior Public Information Officer Carol Drummond at (619) 533-3841.

NEGLECTED SOUTH PARK BUILDINGS TO BE RESTORED



Three neglected South Park buildings will be renovated under a plan recently unveiled by developer Sandy Shapery. The buildings, including the old Fire Station #9 building are located on 30th Street between Juniper and Ivy Streets, and have been abandoned for decades. Shapery told the Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee that he plans historic restoration of the buildings and will turn them into commercial space.

FINANCIAL POLICIES TO BE CONSIDERED

Even though the ink is barely dry on the newly adopted Fiscal Year 2008 City budget, the Budget and Finance Committee, which I chair, has already embarked on a heavy schedule of considering major financial policies in the coming months. Many of these issues arose during the budget process and need resolution and clarification before we begin developing the process for next year, a process which begins no later than the first of the new calendar year. Other issues remain from the overhaul of many of the City's financial practices following the Kroll Report and other investigations or are necessitated by a continuing review of the Mayor's Five Year Financial Outlook.

Among the first issues to be addressed will be finalizing the agreement between the Mayor and the City Council regarding authority to make cuts to the budget. Under a plan developed by the Council's Independent Budget Analyst and agreed to by the Mayor and Council in July, the Mayor would be required to notify the Council of any plan to cut or eliminate a program if it falls within the parameters of a pre-determined set of financial criteria. The criteria are designed to ensure that the Council can weigh in on significant program cuts, and reject them if desired, without bogging the City down through micromanagement. Further work is needed, however, to ensure that there is a cap on the total number of small cuts the Mayor can make that, added together, represent a significant reduction in the level of services to the community. The Budget Committee is expected to discuss this cumulative cap in September.

The Committee will also receive an update from the Mayor on the process of implementing the Managed Competition Program adopted by the voters in 2006 as Prop C. Prop C amended the City Charter to allow the City to contract out services traditionally performed by City employees if it is determined that contracting out would be more economical and efficient while maintaining the quality of services and protecting the public interest. Among the topics to be discussed at the Budget Committee are what services have been identified as candidates for Managed Competition, how the public and employees will be provided an opportunity to participate in the decision making process, what steps will be taken to protect the public if a service is contracted out to a business that fails to meet its obligations, and how to ensure that cost savings aren't achieved by exploiting workers or undermining the quality of services.

Another program that will be reviewed by the Budget Committee is the Living Wage Ordinance. In 2005, I led the Council in its adoption of this ordinance that guarantees that the lowest paid workers of contractors doing business with the City would be paid at least a bare minimum. Beginning in July 2006, workers for these contractors must receive at least \$10 an hour in wages, \$12 an hour if health insurance is not provided. In many instances, these rates enable workers to live above the poverty line for the first time.

Recently, employees at Prudential Overall Supply, which provides uniforms to the city's park rangers, street sweepers, and trash collectors, complained to the City that Prudential was not paying the living wage to its workers. Although the Prudential contract has now been terminated, the situation has raised questions about whether there may be other contractors who are also ignoring the new law. City staff will prepare a report on the program's performance to be presented at a Budget Committee meeting later this Fall.

Other issues on the Budget and Finance Committee agenda in the next couple of months include an economic analysis of the City's aquatic program, which was the target of selected budget cuts by the Mayor last year, as well as an analysis of the level of services provided by the Parks and Recreation and Library Departments. These two departments sustained significant cuts in the recent budget process and the Council's Independent Budget Analyst will investigate to see whether the Mayor's promise to maintain services in these departments has been realistic.

District Three Neighborhood Meetings

City Heights

Azalea Park Neighborhood Association: Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 2596 Violet Street at 6:30pm. Contact: info@azaleapark.org.

Cherokee Point Neighborhood Association: Meets the fourth Wednesday at 6:30pm, Cherokee Point Elementary School, 3735 38th Street. Contact: (619) 285-1611.

City Heights Community Development Corporation: Meets the second Thursday of each month at 6pm at 4283 El Cajon Boulevard. Contact: (619) 584-1535.

Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association: Meets the third Thursday of the month at 3850 Westgate Place at 6:30pm. Contact: FairmountPark92105@yahoo.com.

Mid-City Rotary Club: Meets every Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm at the Pearson Ford Regional Transportation Center, 4001 El Cajon Blvd.

Contact: Eveardo.Aguilar@sdcountry.ca.gov

South Castle Neighborhood Association: Meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm at the Buddhist Temple, 3322 Central Avenue. Contact: (619) 284-3118.

Swan Canyon: Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 3120 Euclid Avenue at 6:30 p.m.

Contact: rebecca@bairfinancial.com.

Teralta Concerned Citizens Association: Meets every 4th Monday of the month at 6:30pm at the Fairmount Community Church, 4100 Fairmount Avenue.

Contact: (619)584-2360

Teralta West Neighborhood Alliance: Meets every first and third Thursday of the month at 4283 El Cajon Blvd. at 6:00pm. Contact: (619) 281-3551.

Golden Hill

Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation (GGHCDC): Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the Moose Lodge, 1648 30th Street, beginning at 6:30pm. Contact: (619) 696-9992.

Kensington

The Kensington/Talmadge Community Association: meets every third Wednesday at the Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive, beginning at 7pm. (dinner for a reasonable price is served prior)

Normal Heights

Normal Heights Cultural Council: Meets the third Thursday of each month from 6:00pm-7:30pm at 4649 Hawley Boulevard.

North Park

Altadena Neighborhood Association: Board meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at Santos Coffee at Thorn and 32nd streets. Contact: (619) 280-6662.

Burlingame Neighborhood Association: Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm at different locations each month. Contact: dbyrne4bna@cox.net.

North Park Community Association: Meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at North Park Recreation Center, 4044 Idaho Street. Contact: info@northparksd.org

South Park

The South Park Action Council: Meetings are held quarterly. For information or future meeting dates, e-mail Co-Chairs: Samantha Keenan at samkeen@cox.net or Connie McDonough at conniemcdonough@cox.net.

Talmadge

The Kensington/Talmadge Community Association (see Kensington)

The Talmadge Community Council (TCC): Meets every third Tuesday at 4725 Lucille Drive beginning at 6:30pm.

University Heights

The University Heights Community Development Corporation (CDC): Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the CDC office located at 4452 Park Blvd, Suite 104, at 6:30pm.

The University Heights Crime Watch and Neighborhood Association: Meets on the first Thursday of the month at Alice Birney School Auditorium, 4345 Campus Avenue. Crime Watch at 6:30pm; UHNA at 7:00pm.

Uptown

Bankers Hill/Park West Community Association: meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm at St. Paul's Community Care Center located at 328 Maple Street. Entry is through the parking lot on the west side of the building. Contact: EucalyptusAlert@aol.com

Hillcrest Town Council and Hillcrest Neighborhood Watch: meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Neighborhood Watch meets at 6:30pm followed by the Town Council at 7:00pm at Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Avenue, Uptown District Shopping Center next to Aladdin Restaurant. Contact: nancy@hillquest.com.

District Three

Community Meetings & Staff Information

MONTHLY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Adams Avenue Business Association

4649 Hawley Boulevard Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 7:30am. Contact: (619)282-7329

City Heights Business Association

Board meetings: second Wednesday of every month at 8am at the Metro Career Center Community Room, 3910 University Avenue. Phone: (619)516-2282

El Cajon Blvd. Business Improvement Association

3727 El Cajon Boulevard Meets the third Thursday of the month, 11:30am. Contact: (619)283-3608

Hillcrest Association

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Ave. in the Uptown District Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 5:00pm. Contact: (619)299-3330.

North Park Main Street

3076 University Avenue Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 7:30am. Contact: (619)294-2501

MONTHLY REDEVELOPMENT MEETINGS

North Park Project Area Committee

California Nat'l Bank, 3180 University Ave., 2nd Floor Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm. Contact: Gayle Richardson, Chair, at (619)291-4833.

City Heights Project Area Committee

Metro Career Center, Community Room, 3910 University Ave. Meets the second Monday of the month, 6pm Contact: Karen Bucey, Chair, (619)957-5818.

DISTRICT THREE STAFF

Denise Price, Chief of Staff.

Dale Kelly Bankhead, Committee Consultant to the Committee on Budget and Finance. Communications Director; LGBT community liaison; HIV/AIDS issues.

April Chesebro, Council Representative to Kensington, Talmadge and University Heights; Constituent Services Representative to North Park, Normal Heights, South Park and Golden Hill; African-American community liaison; Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), homeless and senior issues.

Stephen Hill, Policy Advisor/Council Representative to SANDAG Board, environment, canyon preservation, libraries, land use citywide; Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), water and sewer issues, military/veterans issues; Council docket coordinator.

Pam Ison, Council Representative to City Heights; liaison to Asian/Pacific Islander community; citywide housing and redevelopment; SANDAG regional housing; school liaison and education issues; homeless, women's, youth and health issues; parks and recreation; Chargers/Qualcomm Stadium; Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); newsletter; webpage.

Cheli Mohamed, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Atkins and Chief of Staff Denise Price.

Kim Nguyen, Council Representative to City Heights; Constituent Services Representative to Uptown.

Monica Pelaez, Press Secretary/Council Representative to North Park and Normal Heights; liaison to the Latino community; citywide business issues; Police Department liaison and public safety issues; Fire and Life Safety Services liaison.; newsletter.

Jeffery Tom, Council Representative to Balboa Park, Uptown and Hillcrest; Metropolitan Transit System; Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), infrastructure, arts and culture, energy, telecommunications, BID Council liaison.

MONTHLY DISTRICT THREE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Balboa Park Committee

Santa Fe Room of the Balboa Park Club (Off Presidents Way west of Park Blvd.). Meets the first Thursday of the month, 6:30pm.

Contact: Vicki Granowitz, Chair: (619) 584-1203, or vdgwrl@aol.com

City Heights Area Planning Committee

Metro Career Center, Community Room, 3910 University Avenue. Meets the first Monday of the month, 6:30pm

Contact: Jim Varnadore, Chair, (619)280-3910.

Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee (GGHPC)

Balboa Golf Course Clubhouse, Golden Hill. Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm or the city staff member at (619)533-5284.

Contact: Chris Blatt, Chair, csblatt@exateck.com.

Greater North Park Community Planning Committee

North Park Christian Fellowship, Second Floor, 2901 North Park Way. Meets the third Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm.

Contact: Vicki Granowitz, Chair, (619) 584-1203, or vdgwrl@aol.com

Kensington/Talmadge Planning Group

Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm.

Contact: Fred Lindahl, Chair, (619)287-3157.

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

4649 Hawley Boulevard. Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm.

Contact: Jim Baross, Chair, JimBaross@cox.net

Uptown Planners

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Ave. in the Uptown District. Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm.